

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office action dated May 21, 2004, the Examiner withdrew the indicated allowability of claims 2, 4, and 5, in view of newly discovered U. S. Patent No. 6,687,741 B1 of Ramaley *et al.* Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,587,129 B1 to Lavendel *et al.* Claims 2, 4 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over '741 in view of '741,

In the Specification, there are no changes.

In the Claims, claims 1-5 are amended.

The Invention

The invention is a user interface which provides a printer option display directly and immediately upon selection of a print icon from an application command bar on a screen display. As clearly set forth in the Specification, the usual procedure upon selection of a command bar print icon is the immediate activation of the printer without provision of a user interface, which is known to those of ordinary skill in the art to initiate an operating system default print driver, which produces a print output using the setting last set under the "Properties" function of the printer.

The print option display of the invention allows the user to select, *e.g.*, number and selection of pages to be printed, single or duplex print, format, paper selection, *etc.* As explained in the Specification, in order to invoke additional print options, a user must go to the 'File' menu, select 'Print' or 'Print Setup' and then go to a 'Properties' dialog box - this includes at least four steps to reach the peripheral driver, and may include more steps if the computer and printer are managed by a network server, particularly where a number of printers are available to every user

on the network. The UI of the invention requires a single step, wherein an independent vendor's PC application initiates the printing sequence, activating the printer's device-specific driver software. Specification, page 4, lines 22 to page 5, line 5.

Printing from an application with the UI of the invention invokes the following sequence: The user selects the PRINT icon from the application command bar. The icon, rather than initiating the usual sequence, invokes the UI of the invention, which displays the printer-specific option display, thereby by-passing the usual chain of displayed dialog boxes, and placing the user directly into the printer-specific dialog box, thus saving a number of steps.

The Applied Art

U. S. Patent No. 6,587,129 B1 to Lavendel *et al.*, describes a user interface for controlling an image acquisition device. The UI provides common control of common features of different image acquisition devices. Col. 1, lines 58-64. A property sheet is provided having plural property pages, col. 2, line 67 - col. 3, line 1. At least one property page has an interface for core image acquisition device, and at least one property page has an interface for device-dependent image acquisition, col. 3, lines 2-7. Thus, a user enters the control system through a property sheet, which is equivalent to an application driver, in order to reach a property page, which may or may not be equivalent to a device-dependent driver.

U. S. Patent No. 6,687,741 B1 to Ramaley *et al.*, describes a bypass function, which is essential a "Don't show me this again" box.

The Amended Claims

The claims have been amended to narrow the scope of the claimed invention, thereby limiting the claims to a printer, wherein the printer is activated by a user clicking on a

command bar print icon, which action immediately launches a printer option display generated by a printer's device-specific options driver under the direction of the PC application. Put another way, clicking on an application command bar print icon directs the PC to the printer's device-specific options driver, bypassing the operating system default print driver.

Claim 1 recites:

A user interface for providing an alternate means of printing a document on a computer to a printer comprising:

a printer option display generated by the printer's device-specific options driver software for presenting printer-specific peripheral options to a user immediately following selection of the printer from a command bar icon in an independent vendor's PC application, wherein the independent vendor's PC application initiates the printing sequence activating the printer's device-specific options driver software, and wherein said printer option display includes a printer-specific user interface.

Claim 1, as presently amended is allowable because the applied prior art does not teach nor suggest use of UI providing a printer-specific option display to a user immediately following selection of a print icon from a command bar icon in an independent vendor's PC application, wherein the independent vendor's PC application initiates the printing sequence activating the printer's device-specific options driver software. Lavendel *et al.* deal specifically with image acquisition, *e.g.*, a scanner rather than an output device, and does not teach nor suggest the process of activating a print driver directly from an application command bar icon, which results in display, to the use, of a printer-specific user interface. Claim 1 is therefor allowable over the applied art.

Claims 3 and 5 have been amended along the lines of claim 1, and are also allowable over the applied art.

Claims 2 and 4 are allowable with their allowable parent claims.

In light of the foregoing amendment and remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections and objections stated in the Office action, and pass the application to allowance. If the Examiner has any questions regarding the amendment or remarks, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Provisional Request for Extension of time in Which to Respond

Should this response be deemed to be untimely, Applicants hereby request an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any over-payment to Account No. 22-0258.

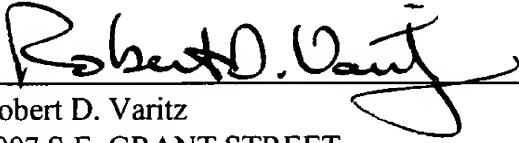
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Respectfully Submitted,

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